

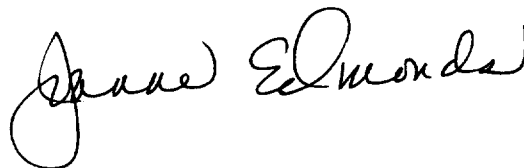
Clarice Starling: Profile of an FBI Agent

An Honors Thesis (HONRS 499)

by

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A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Joanne Edmonds". The signature is written in a cursive style, with the first name "Joanne" and the last name "Edmonds" clearly legible.

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Abstract

This discussion will cover several popular literary works by Thomas Harris and Patricia Cornwell focusing on FBI agents. A profile of Clarice Starling will be made. Finally this will be used to compare and contrast other versions of Clarice and other FBI agents in popular culture to define the stereotypical agent.

Acknowledgements

Thank you to Dr. Joanne Edmonds for understanding when my procrastination seemed to get the better of me. Thanks to my parents for pushing me to continue my education. Thanks also to all my friends for putting up with my complaints and pushing me to work through the stressful times.

As life progresses, we develop stereotypical images of the people who cross our lives. Often blonds are perceived as being dumb based entirely on their hair color. Other people are stereotyped based on completely on their occupation. Accountants are pictured as wearing a green eyeshade, possessing little charisma, and counting beans for a living. But we all know individuals that break these molds. And literary works are no different. By analyzing popular works of fiction, I will attempt to determine the stereotypical role an FBI agent takes on in literary works. As we will see, literary characters can evolve between works in a literary series. In the body of this paper, I will compare and contrast the “real” Clarice of *The Silence of the Lambs* novel with the weaker Clarice of *The Silence of the Lambs* movie and the ruined Clarice of *Hannibal*. By also examining other FBI fictional characters in popular literature, we will better understand how FBI agents are perceived in popular culture.

Events in our lives build an inner strength to help us survive the toughest situations. Clarice Starling is no different from any of us; she faced many hardships early in life to build strength to defy adversity. These events helped Clarice to develop the strength to thrive in difficult circumstances. Clarice held her father in very high regard. His influence during her youth can be seen as contributing to her interest in law enforcement. Her father was a night watchman before his untimely death. After his death, the town tainted Clarice’s memories of her father by taking away the possessions thought to embody his authority, his clock and badge. Clarice’s overachievement in life may stem from her attempts to prove her and her father’s worth to society. By

overachieving, Clarice felt as if she were clearing her father's name from the town's disrespect for the security he provided.

The important memories in life we imprint on our mind to help us hold on to the feelings of that event. The death of Clarice's father is one of those moments. "Her mother, standing at the sink, washing blood out of her father's hat, running cold water over the hat saying, 'We'll be all right Clarice. Tell your brothers and sister to wash up and come to the table. We need to talk and then we'll fix our supper'" (Harris, *Silence* 82). This seemingly insignificant conversation will remain with Clarice always. Her mother promised her life would be all right, but two years later, Clarice had been removed from her mother's care to a foster home and would not know a peaceful reality again for an extensive period of time. However, Clarice would overcome the pictures in her mind to become a stronger person.

After the death of Clarice's father, Clarice's mother faced the difficult task of raising her children alone. For two years, her mother was able to keep the family together. After this time Clarice was moved to her mother's cousins' farm in Montana. At first, Clarice was hurt by the separation from her family but soon found excitement with the farm animals. However, Clarice soon discovered her cousins were slaughtering her beloved animals. Clarice woke one morning to the screaming of the lambs. After this, she attempted to escape and save her horse before he was slaughtered. When she was found, authorities moved her to a children's home and the horse went with her. Clarice had saved her first victim from a premature death. Although she had saved her horse from certain death, the screaming of the lambs remains a constant in her life. The

scene with her mother remains with her, but the sounds of the lambs will haunt her until she can destroy the memories of the lambs.

The adversities that built strength did not end with Clarice's childhood; in fact they were just beginning. As Clarice was preparing to finish her training at the academy, her assistance was requested on a project evaluating Dr. Lecter. The trials began from the first moment she entered the ward where Dr. Lecter was being held. Dr. Chilton, the hospital's director, made his attraction to Clarice apparent from the beginning: "'We've had a lot of detectives here, but I can't remember one so attractive'"(Harris, *Silence* 8). Dr. Chilton chose to focus on the external attributes instead of the academic accomplishments and intelligence that had helped Clarice to succeed in life. Dr. Chilton saw Clarice not as a professional, but he insinuated women were capable only of clerical work. Dr. Chilton showed the power he possessed by forcing Clarice to allow him to look through her personal items. Dr. Chilton's attempts at humiliation were his efforts to get Clarice to see him as powerful man instead of the conniving man he was. Not only does he make sexual innuendos but also implies that her education is sub par and the FBI sent her based on her femininity. Clarice's will to overcome the obstacles that exist in a man's world builds strength only an outcast could understand.

Dr. Chilton not only undermines Clarice's confidence through sexual innuendos but also through his conniving deeds to disrupt the Buffalo Bill case. After Clarice made it clear that she had no intention of reciprocating Dr. Chilton's feelings, he began to undermine the authority Clarice had in her interactions with Dr. Lecter. Dr. Chilton attempted to break the Buffalo Bill case prematurely after recording a conversation between Clarice and Dr. Lecter. The recording caused Clarice to be removed from the

case and threaten the lives of the latest abduction. Clarice did not give up at this point, but vowed to finish what she had started: “You’ve killed her, Dr. Chilton. You’ve killed her, Dr. F--- Face... All gone, all gone, now. All for nothing. When Catherine Martin floats, I’ll see that you have to look at her, I swear I will” (Harris, *Silence* 189). Clarice refuses to give into the current hindrance and finds a way to save a girl that Dr. Chilton had condemned to a horrible death. The strength and perseverance Clarice shows in her exchanges with Dr. Chilton is a tribute to her integrity and strength.

Clarice also possesses great strength in her initial visit to Dr. Lecter’s cell. The intimidating walk through a line of prison cells filled with prisoners with mental instabilities is enough to daunt anyone. After a discussion with Dr Chilton about appropriate and inappropriate actions with Dr. Lecter, Clarice walks the rest of the way to Dr. Lecter’s cell alone. On the path to the cell, Clarice is facing the taunts of other prisoners: “Clarice Starling was aware of figures in the cells, but she tried not to look at them. She was more than halfway down when a voice hissed, ‘I can smell your cunt.’ She gave no sign that she had heard it, and went on” (Harris, *Silence* 14). Clarice refuses to allow little incidents deter her from her destination. Crawford had confidence that she could complete the task, and Clarice was not willing to give up without an attempt. After completing her interview with Dr. Lecter, Clarice walks alone as Miggs taunts her and degrades her by making sexual innuendos and throwing semen on her. Clarice holds her head up and continues to walk out returning, only when beckoned by Dr. Lecter. Miggs was just one hurdle Clarice had to overcome before reaching her goal of explaining Dr. Lecter and his psychosis.

Clarice's relations with Dr. Lecter proved to be complicated from the beginning. The FBI has been attempting to dissect all of serial murderers that were incarcerated in hopes of understanding the motivation behind the torture and death of their victims. Dr. Lecter has always presented a problem to the FBI. The last agent attempting to analyze Dr. Lecter is left with a face that looks as if Picasso drew it. Crawford gave Clarice strict initial instructions on handling Lecter. "If Lecter talks to you at all, he'll just be trying to find out about you. It's the kind of curiosity that makes a snake look in a bird's nest"(Harris, *Silence* 6). Getting beyond Dr. Lecter's knowledge of psychoanalysis makes it difficult for Clarice with her inexperience: "... You were doing fine, you'd been courteous and receptive to courtesy, you'd established trust by telling the embarrassing truth about Miggs, and then you come in with a ham-handed segue into your questionnaire. It won't do"(Harris, *Silence* 19). Clarice is having her expertise questioned by Dr. Lecter, making it difficult to conduct a successful interview. Not only is Clarice's experience being questioned, but Dr. Lecter also doubts Clarice's upbringing: "You're so ambitious, aren't you? Do you know what you look like to me, with your good bag and cheap shoes? You look like a rube. You're a well-scrubbed, hustling rube with a little taste...Desperate not to be like your mother"(Harris, *Silence* 22). Dr. Lecter sees past the façade Clarice has developed and turns it against her in her interrogation of him. This first visit builds an inner strength Clarice did not have before, but the relationship she had with Dr. Lecter was just beginning.

As the relationship continues, it evolves into a cat and mouse game between Dr. Lecter and Clarice. Agent Crawford allows Clarice to continue with the interrogation because Clarice has become "the game" to Dr. Lecter. During the first meeting, Dr.

Lecter set a precedent. He was willing to talk if Clarice would respond to some questions about her past. Dr. Lecter seems engaged with the topic of the screaming lambs from her childhood. The lambs have been a point of torture for Clarice that she has never been able to escape. Dr. Lecter is willing to lead Clarice to certain conclusions regarding James Gumb but never state his meaning behind his hints. Crawford points this out to Clarice after one of her more productive visits with Lecter: “That’s not a guess. He’s very likely right and he could have told you why, but he wanted to tease you with it. It’s the only weakness I ever saw in him – he has to look smart, smarter than anybody” (Harris, *Silence* 94). His intelligence makes it difficult for Clarice to discover the truth behind Dr. Lecter’s discussions. The connection Dr. Lecter felt with Clarice is apparent to the end of the novel, when the doctor writes to ask if the lambs have ceased their screaming since her capture of “Buffalo Bill.” The connection with Dr. Lecter builds an inner strength in Clarice. Dr. Lecter does not allow Clarice to give into the senselessness that many of her colleagues follow in the hunt for “Buffalo Bill.”

Clarice’s inner strength builds, as Dr. Lecter is able to read Clarice as if she were an open book. Dr. Lecter has the ability to comprehend a complete person merely by watching them. Clarice is no exception to this. Clarice originally did not think very highly of Agent Crawford. She had seen him speak at the University of Virginia. She had written him a note and he never replied. As time progressed and Crawford called on Clarice for her assistance, Crawford’s approval became much more important to her and Dr. Lecter can see this: “Would you like for him to like you? Tell me, do you feel an urge to please him and does it worry you? Are you wary of your urge to please him?” (Harris, *Silence* 61). Dr. Lecter has the ability to look and find the flaws that exist

in people and play on these. By picking at these flaws, Dr. Lecter has the capability to destroy those individuals he comes in contact with. Clarice refuses to let Dr. Lecter break her and due to this, she grows stronger with each visit to meet with him.

Clarice's strength does not end with her confrontation with Dr. Lecter. Clarice's hunt for James Gumb proves to be just as trying as her meetings with Dr. Lecter. In Clarice's pursuit of "Buffalo Bill," she comes across many obstacles that might have deterred stronger people. Clarice continues on even when her career is threatened. Clarice was ready to accept a "recycle" in order to solve the case she had been working so diligently on. She had been working carefully to prove her worth to her teachers and colleagues. Unraveling the case and freeing Catherine from the clutches of James Gumb meant more than graduating with her class. Clarice was not only facing the loss of a dream, but also the hunt of "Buffalo Bill." In Clarice's search for clues to solve the Buffalo Bill case, she stumbles upon the truth and in the process becomes the object of Buffalo Bill's next hunt. As the lights are cut and the hunt begins, Clarice is faced with the difficult task of calming a kidnapping victim and saving her own life. As Clarice followed Gumb downstairs to discover what had become of Catherine, she finds her own strength being tested: "Braced behind the well, covering the door, her heart pounded and her breath blew dust off the stone. She could not leave Catherine Martin to get help when she didn't know where Gumb was" (Harris, *Silence* 344). Clarice chooses not to give in, but rescue another victim in hopes of silencing the lambs' screams.

Clarice survived an impossible childhood, faced the death of her father, and the separation of her family. These events in her young life were the building blocks for the inner strength she would need later in life. As life continued, Clarice faced more and

more difficulties relating to her career. She was a woman in a man's world. She overcomes these obstacles to thrive in a difficult world. As Clarice faces Dr. Lecter, she finds an inner strength she did not know she had and withstands the tests Dr. Lecter presented her with. As life continually presents difficulties, Clarice continues to grow in her emotional strength. Clarice was forced to build not only her emotional strength but also her physical strength by being able to compete physically with her male counterparts and excel in her FBI training class. The real Clarice has grown physically and emotionally all her life. Clarice possesses a strength beyond that of her colleagues that is the driving force in her success as an FBI agent and the essence of her character.

Mr. Harris's depiction of Clarice in *The Silence of the Lambs* appears to be the real Clarice. As I progress from the novel to the movie, I find some major differences between the two works. In the movie adaptation of the novel, Clarice appears to be a weaker character, both physically and emotionally than previously portrayed in *The Silence of the Lambs* novel. The novel depicts very little about Clarice's physical description other than Dr. Lecter's initial evaluation at the asylum. *The Silence of the Lambs* movie focuses much of the opening on her physical stature. During one opening scene, Clarice is shown standing in an elevator full of her male colleagues all clad in red polo shirts. The clean-shaven men statuesquely dominate Clarice by almost a foot. Clarice is disheveled from her recent run. Her appearance makes her seem more vulnerable and less polished than her male colleagues. Allowing Clarice to appear weaker makes her victory that much harder to attain. In another scene, Clarice is running and being quizzed by her roommate Ardelia Mapp. The two pass a group of their male classmates. After the two girls have passed by the men, the men all turn their heads in

unison to check out the two women. The male classmates treat Mapp and Clarice as if they are pieces of meat instead of their equals. The physical stature of the male FBI agents in comparison to Clarice makes her appear weaker than her classmates. Clarice flies with Agent Crawford to look at another “Buffalo Bill” victim. Clarice is left standing outside with a group of local lawmen. The lawmen are all standing in their uniforms and again their stature is much greater than Clarice’s. This sizeable difference between statures causes Clarice to appear less forceful than Harris intended for Clarice to be in his novel.

The physical domination by her classmates and her inability to hide her emotions from the audience make her appear weaker in the eyes of the audience. As things become tenser, Clarice begins to swallow harder in the movie. It’s almost as if she’s trying to swallow her emotions and keep them from getting the best of her. The novel mentions nothing previously about Clarice’s outward reaction to certain situations. This is clear in the initial visit with Dr. Lecter. During the walk to Dr. Lecter’s cell, Clarice physically grimaces when Multiple Miggs makes a lewd comment to her. During Clarice’s last interaction with Dr. Lecter, you can see the emotional agitation Dr. Lecter is causing by forcing Clarice to reflect on her past. This emotional outburst is a different Clarice than Harris portrayed. During *The Silence of the Lambs* novel, Clarice refused to show her emotions. By not allowing her emotions out, Clarice is blocking her colleagues from fully understanding who Clarice is. And finally as Clarice is walking down the airport corridor in the movie, the emotions and fatigue get the better of her as she slows her pace and reflects on the emotional havoc that has taken place within the past few days. During the course of the movie, little behaviors allow her emotions to become

apparent to those around her. Previously, Mr. Harris allowed very few emotions to be seen in Clarice's character, making her stronger than the movie would lead the audience to believe.

There are events that change our lives. Even the most dramatic events cause a significant change on our character, but they can't change the core of our being. Mr. Harris presents Clarice with some very traumatic experiences in *The Silence of the Lambs*; they don't change Clarice's character but build an inner strength she would not have had previously. As we look at the Clarice we are presented with in *Hannibal*, we find an entirely new Clarice. She has changed from the morally strong character we are presented with in *The Silence of Lambs* to an emotional wreck.

Mr. Harris takes Clarice, a character who is strong emotionally and physically, and in one scene, he rewrites her entire character. This transition cannot be justified by the events that have taken place, but instead shows Mr. Harris's focus on the outcome of his new novel. From this point forward, we will look at the new character Mr. Harris created to justify the conclusion of his novel.

At first, it seems as if nothing has changed with Clarice in *Hannibal*. A fellow FBI agent has requested her assistance. John Brigham, a fellow agent, has been working to take down a large drug dealer. Clarice had dealt with EVELDA Drumgo previously and been far more successful than other officers. When the male officers questioned Clarice's expertise, she reflected on her personal experiences with this male superiority complex: "There was a time when Starling would have deferred to these men. Now they didn't like what she was saying, and she had seen too much to care" (Harris, *Hannibal* 6). Clarice had dealt with enough men in her life to understand the egos of these men.

Clarice appears to be unchanged from her original character. As the events of the siege begin to unfold, it becomes apparent that this will not be a peaceful encounter with Evelda Drumgo. Someone had tipped Evelda and her gang off to the DEA's arrival. The news helicopters were circling before the siege even began. After the death of Brigham, Clarice would do anything to maintain the safety of the remaining agents. Clarice shot and killed Evelda, who was holding her infant son. Without regard for her own safety Clarice rushed to aid Evelda's child from the HIV infected blood of his mother. The real Clarice is alive and well at this point. She has shown the strength and courage she had shown in *The Silence of the Lambs*. This event would prove to be a breaking point for Clarice's character, however.

During *The Silence of the Lambs* novel, Clarice never showed emotion. She was able to keep her feelings hidden from everyone but Dr. Lecter. Throughout her childhood, Clarice faced many hardships that would have broken other children. She never allowed herself to break down but remained the picture of strength. All through Clarice's dealings with Dr. Lecter and Dr. Chilton, Clarice never allowed the games they played to affect her. After one highly stressful situation in *Hannibal*, Clarice returns home and allows all of her emotions to escape. During *The Silence of the Lambs*, Clarice had found comfort in the laundry room after her resolution of the Buffalo Bill case. Again during *Hannibal*, Clarice returns to her laundry room for a breakdown: "Starling wraps herself in a big beach towel and pads into the living room. She comes back with two inches of Jack Daniel's neat in a tumbler. She sits down on the rubber mat before the washing machine and leans back against it in the dark as the warm machine throbs and sloshes. She sits on the floor with her face turned up and sobs a few dry sobs before the

tears come. Scalding tears on her cheeks, down her face” (Harris, *Hannibal* 16). Even after the death of her father, Clarice never cried or showed the hurt she was feeling. The emotions Clarice had been holding back her entire life came bursting forth. Mr. Harris has taken an eternally strong character and ruined her by taking away the strength that made Clarice who she was. He allowed his vision of Clarice and Dr. Lecter together to cloud his judgment and forget who Clarice was and the characteristics that made her who she was.

The pride Clarice once had in her career was now being threatened. Her life had begun to spin out of control. Clarice is losing the grip she had on life because of one event in her life. As Clarice slowly loses the control over her life, she has lost the strength she previously possessed. As Clarice becomes weaker, she becomes more susceptible to the environment and temptations around them. Clarice had begun to sell out. She was allowing her career to slowly dwindle down to mediocre and the slide continues: “Starling’s career was flat-lining anyway. She’ll get an administrative discharge without attendance rap – and she’ll be able to get a job” (Harris, *Hannibal* 24). The real Clarice never would have allowed the disintegration of her career to take place. How could Clarice realize the catalyst for her career would eventually be the undoing of it? “Now that she was a veteran of the Bureau, veteran of many lateral assignments, she could see that her early triumph in catching the serial murderer Jame Gumb was part of her undoing in the Bureau. She was a rising star that stuck on the way up. In the process of catching Gumb, she had made at least one powerful enemy and excited the jealousy of a number of her male contemporaries” (Harris, *Hannibal* 50). Clarice was still facing the difficulties of being a minority in a male dominated society. Clarice no longer had the

strength to strive against the opposition as she once had. During *The Silence of the Lambs*, Clarice held her father's respect very high. Through her career, she was attempting to prove her worth to her father and society. Crawford knew how much this meant as shown in a comment made by him at the academy graduation: "'Starling, your father sees you'" (Harris, *Silence* 356). Her career had meant far too much to her to allow its dissolution. As Clarice's career slowly slips away, Clarice's grasp of reality slips away with it. What once was a driving force in her life no longer mattered.

The relationship between Dr. Lecter and Clarice would again have an influence over Clarice's actions. Dr. Lecter has always played games with the people he came in contact with. In the closing of a letter to Clarice at the conclusion of *The Silence of the Lambs*, Dr. Lecter hinted at the feelings he had for Clarice: "I have no plans to call on you, Clarice, the world being more interesting with you in it" (Harris, *Silence* 356). Dr. Lecter shows an interest in Clarice he never showed before. Other people attempting to analyze Dr. Lecter or merely having the bad luck of being his patient have ended up critically mutilated or dead. Dr. Lecter worried about Clarice's response to the public's reaction to the recent incident with Evelda Drumgo while he showed little concern for the public's reaction to his own past. Dr. Lecter knew that Clarice needed someone to add perspective she had not previously experienced. As the stress begins to grow, Clarice loses the strength and moral character she had previously in *The Silence of the Lambs*. Dr. Lecter never planned to call on Clarice, but his letter allowed her to begin her chase. Dr. Lecter understood the FBI would send the one person who had been able to talk with him.

Dr. Lecter feared that Clarice would allow this incident to destroy her life. He feeds on the destruction of faith: “He thought what happened to me would...destroy, would disillusion me about the Bureau. And he enjoys seeing the destruction of faith, it’s his favorite thing” (Harris, *Hannibal* 48). Dr. Lecter’s letter presented a new job. Krendler understood that Dr. Lecter had a weakness for Clarice. By allowing Clarice to continue the chase of Dr. Lecter, Krendler can get what he wants most, money and the destruction of Clarice Starling. Krendler had set out to destroy Clarice’s reputation after her rejection of him. Previously Clarice never would have let this setback have an effect on her ambitions in life. By taking away the one thing she held dear, Krendler is opening Clarice up for temptations: “After finding the Lecter X ray, Starling had marked time as a highly qualified temporary, filling in at the National Police Academy, Quantico, for instructors who were ill or on vacation” (Harris, *Hannibal* 222). Clarice has taken the bait that was left by Krendler for her hunt for Dr. Lecter.

During Clarice’s hunt for Dr. Lecter, some of the old ambition we had seen comes back. Clarice had worked diligently to secure Jame Gumb during *The Silence of the Lambs*. And a similar hunt was on. We are unsure whether Clarice’s hunt for Dr. Lecter is to stop his terror over society or for her own motivations: “I don’t worry about Lecter much. Not that way. I used to go a long time and not even think about it. You know that lead feeling, that heavy gray feeling when you dread something? I don’t ever have that. I just think I’d know if I had a problem” (Harris, *Hannibal* 241). Dr. Lecter stated he would never come after Clarice because he found the world more interesting with her in it. But Clarice’s mixed feelings for Dr. Lecter are confusing except for the fact that Clarice fears Dr. Lecter: “I wouldn’t shoot him because I’m scared of him. He’s not the

wolf man. It would just be up to him” (Harris, *Hannibal* 241). Clarice’s hunt for Dr. Lecter appears to be more for selfish reasons than for the good of society. She fears him but wants to capture Dr. Lecter to better understand him and continue their conversations.

During *Hannibal*, Clarice and Dr. Lecter’s relationship changes significantly from the give and take of previous conversations. Dr. Lecter has come back into Clarice’s life to help her and him with the incidents in their past that have shaped them today. Dr. Lecter offers closure on situations that had been holding Clarice back in life, such as the role Krendler has played in the destruction of her strength: “You know, Mr. Krendler, every time you ever leered at me, I had the nagging feeling I had done something to deserve it...I didn’t deserve it. Every time you wrote something negative in my personnel folder, I resented it but still I searched myself. I doubted myself for a moment and tried to scratch this tiny itch that said Daddy knows best” (Harris, *Hannibal* 471). Krendler’s involvement in the destruction of Clarice’s career has taken away the strength that had grown over the years. Not only does Dr. Lecter offer closure on Krendler’s control but also over the death of her father. Dr. Lecter went so far as to have Clarice’s father exhumed to get his hat. Clarice questioned her actions in the Evelda Drumgo case and what her father thought of them. Dr. Lecter brings back her father to tell her she did what she had to: “You never shot nobody you didn’t have to” (Harris, *Hannibal* 449). These two events help Clarice to let go of incidents that have haunted her, but take away the courage and strength that provided the drive Harris originally created in *The Silence of the Lambs*. By taking away the strength Clarice had, Mr. Harris is leaving Clarice vulnerable to Dr. Lecter’s advances.

Other characters exist in popular culture that define the image we have of FBI agents. Popular literature contains both men and women. Clarice of *The Silence of the Lambs* presents us with the basis of our comparison. After comparing the real Clarice to the wounded Clarice of the movie and the ruined Clarice of *Hannibal*, we move on to Crawford and Krendler of *The Silence of the Lambs* and *Hannibal*. We will also compare and contrast characters from several selections of a literary series by Patricia Cornwell.

Jack Crawford represents the stereotypical FBI agent. He presents a strong outward appearance in *The Silence of the Lambs* even when his personal life is failing him. Crawford never allowed the personal trials he was facing as his wife's health deteriorated more with each passing day to change his drive to catch Buffalo Bill: "He's got a lot on his mind besides Buffalo Bill. His wife Bella's real sick. She's...in a terminal situation. He's keeping her at home. If it wasn't for Buffalo Bill, he'd have taken compassionate leave" (Harris, *Silence* 67). Crawford refuses to give into the pressure facing him at home with his wife and media coverage of Buffalo Bill.

Although Crawford's strength in *The Silence of the Lambs* was admirable, his strength is considerably less during *Hannibal*. The death of Bella has taken a tremendous toll on him. The loss he suffered through was more than he could handle. The pressure from others within the FBI became too great for him to withstand. Crawford slips away from the uncompromising position to a malleable form: "I'm not asking you, I'm giving you a direct order. Stay out of this. Don't throw it away, Jack. Sometimes you've just got to turn your face away. I've done it. Listen, I know it's hard, believe me I know how you feel" (Harris, *Hannibal* 25). Crawford is forced to turn the other cheek when Clarice's ability is called into question. Crawford respected Clarice during the Buffalo

Bill case. He gave her respect beyond her years. Many people in similar situations would have refused to believe in the strength and talent of a student. As we progress to Hannibal, Crawford still holds Clarice in high regards, but the confidence in his own work and health has diminished considerably.

Crawford represents the good guys riding in on their white horses. Krendler, on the other hand, represents all that's corrupt within the FBI agency. Krendler represents the evil that exists in society. The driving force in Krendler's life becomes material things, such as money. Krendler also looks to keep women in their stereotypical roles within society. During *Hannibal*, Krendler's vengeance for Clarice becomes obvious in the meeting to discuss what is to be done with Clarice's career: "And there he was her nemesis, Paul Krendler from Justice, with his long neck and his round ears set high on his head like the ears of a hyena. Krendler was a climber, the gray eminence at the shoulder of the Inspector General. Since she caught the serial killer Buffalo Bill ahead of him in a celebrated case seven years ago, he had dripped poison into her personnel file at every opportunity, and whispered close to the ears of the Career Board" (Harris, *Hannibal* 38). Krendler is even described as a predator. Krendler believes the stereotypical role of women should be in the home. Krendler believed if Clarice was left to her own regard, his career would be destroyed in the process: "Except for his own personal risk, the matter of ruining Clarice Starling did not weigh with Krendler as would breaking a man. A man had a family to support – Krendler supported his own family, as greedy and ungrateful as they were" (Harris, *Hannibal* 337). Krendler's narrow-minded view of women's capabilities will be his downfall. He sees the destruction a woman's career as miniscule on the scale of things. His greed becomes the sole driving force in his life.

Krendler shows strength in his convictions. He has vowed revenge on Clarice and will not give in until he has reached that goal.

Benton is Patricia Cornwell's FBI link in her literary series based around Kay Scarpetta, a medical examiner. Benton's attitude towards women in the profession and the home represent the stereotypes Clarice fought throughout her career with law enforcement. Clarice was forced to overcome the jealousy and biased views of men in her profession. Benton's views of females are seen in two perspectives. Women working professionally are fighting stereotypes everyday. They are seen as intellectual but not domestic. And housewives are fighting to be seen as more than household servants. Benton fails to overcome these stereotypes as can be seen clearly in his interactions with his wife and Kay in *All that Remains*. Benton expected his wife to dutifully take drink orders from their guests and leave the room any serious discussions of the cases were discussed. Kay, in contrast, was someone Benton connected with on an intellectual level. Benton treated Kay more as an equal than a servant. The connection Benton feels to the intellect of Kay becomes more apparent as they become physically involved with later: "I did not quite know what I had expected, and certainly I had imagined us together long before we were. He would be soft beneath his hard reserve, like a warrior sleepy and warm in a hammock tethered between mighty trees" (Cornwell, *Body* 298). Dr. Scarpetta expected Benton to be this hard man due to the essence he exudes to the public. By becoming involved with Benton on an emotional level, Kay discovers he's not the stereotype she had initially expected him to be. The strength Benton possesses comes apparent again in dealing with his officers and the public. It's only on an emotional level that the strength fades away to a gentleness no one expects.

Lucy is Kay Scarpetta's niece in the Kay Scarpetta mystery series by Patricia Cornwell. Lucy relates most closely to that of the ruined Clarice. Lucy has allowed her heart to make important decisions affecting her career and life. She trusted persons who were out for their success only, leaving Lucy to hold the pieces of a failing career. Lucy refuses to give in to the powers controlling her career. With the assistance of her aunt, Lucy perseveres to find a way to survive in the FBI.

Strength is a common thread among most FBI agents in popular literature. Whether the character is a strong individual emotionally, physically, or obstinately, they rarely allow their opposition to control the outcome of any given situation. Clarice in *The Silence of the Lambs* refused to give into the fate life had dealt her. She worked to overcome all the obstacles standing in her way to become a successful FBI agent. The ruined Clarice of *Hannibal* shows the strength of not giving in when a solution seemed impossible. Crawford overcame the doubts of her colleagues to find where Dr. Lecter had been hiding. Crawford didn't allow the death of his wife to deter him from his objective of catching Buffalo Bill. As we look at different examples of FBI agents, we find common traits between all such as strength. Other qualities vary widely from one agent to the next, but the strength remains among all. Lumping all FBI agents into one stereotypical mold would be the same as lumping all blonds into the dumb blond stereotype. By looking at the many faces of Clarice, Crawford, Krendler, Benton, and Lucy we find one common trait. Strength. Their personalities and abilities are far different and should not be grouped together into one stereotypical mold. Their individual characteristics determine who they will be and the success they will have, just as we discover everyday.

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